

Decision Maker: PLANS SUB-COMMITTEE NO. 1

Date: Thursday 20 December 2012

Decision Type: Urgent Non-Urgent Executive Non-Executive Key Non-Key

Title: **OBJECTIONS TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 2496 AT FOREST DENE, HOLWOOD PARK AVENUE, KESTON**

Contact Officer: Coral Gibson, Principal Trees Officer
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Chief Officer: Chief Planner

Ward: Bromley Common and Keston

1. Reason for report

To consider objections that have been made in respect of the making of a tree preservation order.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Chief Planner advises that the tree makes an important contribution to the visual amenity of this part of the Keston Park conservation area and that the order should be confirmed.

3. COMMENTARY

This order was made on 31st July and it relates to a maple tree in the back garden of the property. Objections have been made by the owner of the property who has expressed concern about the structure of the tree and the risks of one of the stems failing. He included a comment from his tree surgeon who has stated: “ the area of bark where the two stems join displays obvious signs of bark inclusion which has the effect of causing large amounts o compression in the fork. As with all compression forks one of the two stems will eventually fail due to the force exerted on it by the sister stem resulting in a large stem would and an unbalanced crown. It would be preferable at this stage to remove this tree in order to benefit the growth of the adjacent lime tree which is a good specimen displaying little or no stem or crown defects and thus having more longevity than the maple.”

The maple is a mature specimen and the trunk divides into two main stems at about 2 metres. The union between the two stems is a compression fork and this means that there is an increased risk of either or both stems failing. However where stems are growing vertically, as is the case with this tree, the risks of failure are more limited. The immediate risk of failure is not so serious as to warrant felling of the tree and there are other options. Alternatives are either reduction of the crown or cable bracing the two stems.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report is in accordance with Policy NE6 of the Council’s adopted Unitary Development Plan

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

If not confirmed the order will expire on 31st January 2013.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

None

Non-Applicable Sections:	[List non-applicable sections here]
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	[Title of document and date]